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THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE

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REPORT NO. CS-311/00275-73

DATE DISTR. 15 JANUARY 1973

COUNTRY LAOS/NORTH VIETNAM

DOI LATE JULY 1971

SUBJECT SIGHTING OF FIVE U.S. PRISONERS OF WAR IN SOUTHERN LAOS

ACQ VIETNAM, SAIGON (21 DECEMBER 1972) [REDACTED]

SOURCE

[REDACTED]

1. AT 1200 HOURS ONE DAY IN LATE JULY 1971, [REDACTED] WHO WAS INFILTRATING SOUTH VIETNAM (SVN) BY WAY OF THE 559TH COMMO-LIAISON ROUTE, OBSERVED FIVE UNITED STATES (U.S.) PRISONERS OF WAR (POW'S) FOR ABOUT 40 MINUTES WHILE THE POW'S WERE EATING LUNCH AT COMMO-LIAISON STATION 64 IN SOUTHERN LAOS ON THE 559TH COMMO-LIAISON ROUTE. THE POW'S WERE ESCORTED BY 12 SOLDIERS WHO WERE ARMED WITH AK-47 ASSAULT RIFLES. THE ESCORT SOLDIERS TOLD

[REDACTED]

STATE	DIA	NSA	CBS	(For Final Distribution see final paragraph)
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APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date 20 AUG 1979

~~CONFIDENTIAL - NO FOREIGN DISSEM~~

THAT THE POW'S HAD BEEN CAPTURED IN THE VIETNAM AREA AND THAT THEY WERE TRAVELLING TO NORTH VIETNAM. COMMENT: THE VIET CONG B-3 FRONT CONSISTS OF KONTUM AND DARLAC PROVINCES IN SOUTH VIETNAM.) THE POW'S AND THEY DID NOT HAVE ANY VISIBLE WOUNDS.

2. ONE POW WAS A NEGRO ABOUT 25 YEARS OLD. HE WAS 80 KILOS, WAS ABOUT 1.70 METERS TALL, AND WAS WEARING BLACK PAJAMAS AND BOOTS.

3. ANOTHER POW WAS A CAUCASIAN ABOUT 25 YEARS OLD. HE WAS A HUSKY BUILD, WAS ABOUT 1.30 METERS TALL, AND WEIGHED ABOUT 75 KILOS. HE HAD HAZEL EYES, A RUDDY COMPLEXION, BROWN HAIR AND WAS WEARING A GREEN UNIFORM AND BOOTS.

4. THE OTHER THREE POW'S WERE CAUCASIANS WITH SIMILAR BUILD. EACH BEING ABOUT 1.70 METERS TALL AND WEIGHING ABOUT 75 KILOS. ONE POW WAS WEARING A GREEN UNIFORM AND THE OTHER TWO WERE DRESSED IN BLACK PAJAMAS. ALL THREE WERE WEARING BLACK BOOTS.

5. [REDACTED] WAS SHOWN THE JOINT PERSONNEL RECOVERY CENTER (JPRC) "ALBUM OF MISSING AND CAPTURED PERSONNEL IN SOUTHEAST ASIA" AND IDENTIFIED PHOTO NO. C141 ON PAGE 1 A 472 AS RESEMBLING THE NEGRO POW; PHOTO NO. G030 ON PAGE 1 A 103 AS RESEMBLING THE HUSKY POW; AND PHOTOS NO. B086 ON PAGE 1 A 193, S007 ON PAGE 1 A 193, AND NO. C083 ON PAGE 1 A 152 AS RESEMBLING THE THREE POW'S WHO HAD SIMILAR BUILDS.)

6. [REDACTED]: THE ABOVE INFORMATION WAS CORRELATED WITH JPRC WHICH MADE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS: SCREENING OF JPRC RECORDS INDICATES THAT BEFORE THE DATE OF SIGHTING, FROM 30 TO 42 INDIVIDUALS HAD BEEN LOST IN THE AREA MENTIONED. SEVERAL OF THESE INDIVIDUALS ARE KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN CAPTURED AND OTHERS ARE BELIEVED TO BE HELD CAPTIVE BECAUSE OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THEIR DISAPPEARANCES.)

~~CONFIDENTIAL/NO FOREIGN DISSEM~~

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7. [REDACTED]
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[REDACTED] FIELD DISSEM

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8. FIELD DISSEM: EMBASSY USMACV JPRC 7TH AIR FORCE
USARV NAVFORV 525TH MI GP 7602ND AIG USI AT SAIGON:
SENT TO CINCPAC PACFLT PACAF ARPAC PARIS VIENTIANE.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

51-H